

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/655,681	ULRICH, PAUL C.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hai V. Nguyen	2142	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the communication s received on 06 July and 07 May 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 January 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>19102004; 29102004.</u> |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Paul C. Ulrich, the inventor and Applicant Pro Se, on 29 October 2004.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 17 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for managing electronic communications:
recording a direction of a first electronic communication between a first entity and a second entity;
determining a duration required for said second entity to process said first electronic communication;
storing a data record of said first electronic communication comprising said direction, said duration, and identities of said first and said second entities in a database with at least one other data record of a second electronic communication;
establishing a standard duration from the duration to process said first and said second communications; and
comparing the duration to process subsequent electronic communications to said standard duration,

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whereby productivity of communicating entities may be determined through electronic communications.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of graphically presenting said first and said second communications.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
receiving a plurality of user-defined standards; and
alerting a user when a communication violates one of said plurality of standards.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of reading a message-specific standard duration from metadata of a received electronic communication.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
determining a subject matter for each received communication; and
storing said determined subject matter in said database in the data record for that electronic communication.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of determining the subject matter further comprises reading subject matter data from said metadata.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said first entity and said second entity are users and further comprising the steps of:
determining for each said user the time applied by that user to a selected subject matter; and
providing each said user with a rank in response to said time determining step.

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8. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of associating said rank with business data.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic communications further comprise telephone calls.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic communications further comprise e-mails.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic communications further comprise video data.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic communications further comprise transferred data files.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said electronic communications further comprise mix-media data.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic communications further comprise instant messaging.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic communications further comprise image files.
16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of establishing a standard duration further comprises establishing said standard duration using the size and data format of the electronic communication.
17. (Amended) A system for managing electronic communications, comprising:
means for recording a direction of a first electronic communication between a first entity and a second entity;

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means for determining a duration required for said second entity to process said first electronic communication;

a database for storing a data record of said first electronic communication comprising said direction, said duration, and identities of said first and said second entities, said database storing at least one other data record of a second electronic communication;

means for establishing a standard duration from the duration to process said first and said second communications; and

means for comparing the duration to process subsequent electronic communications to said standard duration,

whereby productivity of communicating entities may be determined through electronic communications.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17 further comprising means for graphically presenting said first and said second communications.

19. (Original) The system of claim 17 further comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of user-defined standards; and

means for alerting a user when a communication violates one of said plurality of standards.

20. (Original) The system of claim 17 further comprising means for reading a message-specific standard duration from metadata of a received electronic communication.

21. (Original) The system of claim 17 further comprising:

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means for determining a subject matter for each received communication; and
means for storing said determined subject matter in said database in the data record for that electronic communication.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the means for determining the subject matter further comprises reading subject matter data from said metadata.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22 further comprising:

means for determining for each said user the time applied by that user to a selected subject matter; and

means for providing each said user with a rank in response to said time determining step.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23 further comprising means for associating said rank with business data.

Reasons For Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for allowance of the claims is the inclusion of "*determining a duration required for said second entity to process said first electronic communication; storing a data record of said first electronic communication comprising said direction, said duration, and identities of said first and said second entities in a database with at least one other data record of a second electronic communication; establishing a standard duration from the duration to process said first and said second communications; and comparing the duration to process subsequent electronic communications to said standard duration.*" in all of the independent claims. Douglass et al U.S patent no. 6,587,877 B1 and Flockhart et al. U.S patent # 6,563,920 B1, do not have these limitations.

3. The Examiner's interpretation of the claim language is based upon Applicant's the arguments received on 06 July 2004 and 07 May 2004 (pages 4-13) and the enabling portions of the specification, (Fig. 4, Abstract, pages 6-15). Therefore, Applicant's instant claims are considered to be allowable.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. **Claims 1-24** are allowed.

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Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai V. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3901. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00-3:30 Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Harvey can be reached on 571-272-3896. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hai V. Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 2142



JACK B. HARVEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER